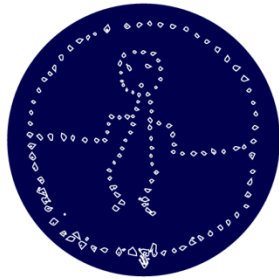




NIEDERSÄCHSISCHE STAATS- UND  
UNIVERSITÄTSBIBLIOTHEK GÖTTINGEN



# Coins, Shells and Exotic Garments – Virtual Reconstruction of a late 18<sup>th</sup> Century University Collection

Gudrun Bucher & Susanne Al-Eryani & Stefanie Rühle (SUB Göttingen)

CERL Seminar 2017

26. Oct. 2017





# About the ASCH project

- **Title:** Developing interoperable metadata standards for contextualizing heterogeneous objects, exemplified by objects of the provenance Baron von Asch (short ASCH)
- **Funder:** Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG)
- **Duration:** 01.09.2014 – 28.02.2018
- **Project Lead:**
  - State and University Library of Göttingen (SUB)
  - Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology
- **Team:**
  - Project coordination: Stefanie Rühle (sruehle(a)sub.uni-goettingen.de)
  - Susanne Al-Eryani (al-eryani(a)sub.uni-goettingen.de)
  - Gudrun Bucher (gudrun.bucher(a)sub.uni-goettingen.de)
  - Jörg-Holger Panzer (panzer(a)sub.uni-goettingen.de)



# Aims of the project

- **Virtual reconstruction of the „Asch collection“ by indicating provenance information**
  - **Challenges:** different object types held in different cultural heritage collections
- **Contextualisation of the different items by relating the objects to the corresponding provenance and other information, such as Asch's letters, transportation lists, object labels (handwritten by von Asch and sent to Göttingen)**
  - **Challenges:**
    - proving the reliability of provenance information via evidence (letters, labels, diaries, inventories etc.)
    - interlinking between item and evidence

# Baron Georg Thomas von Asch



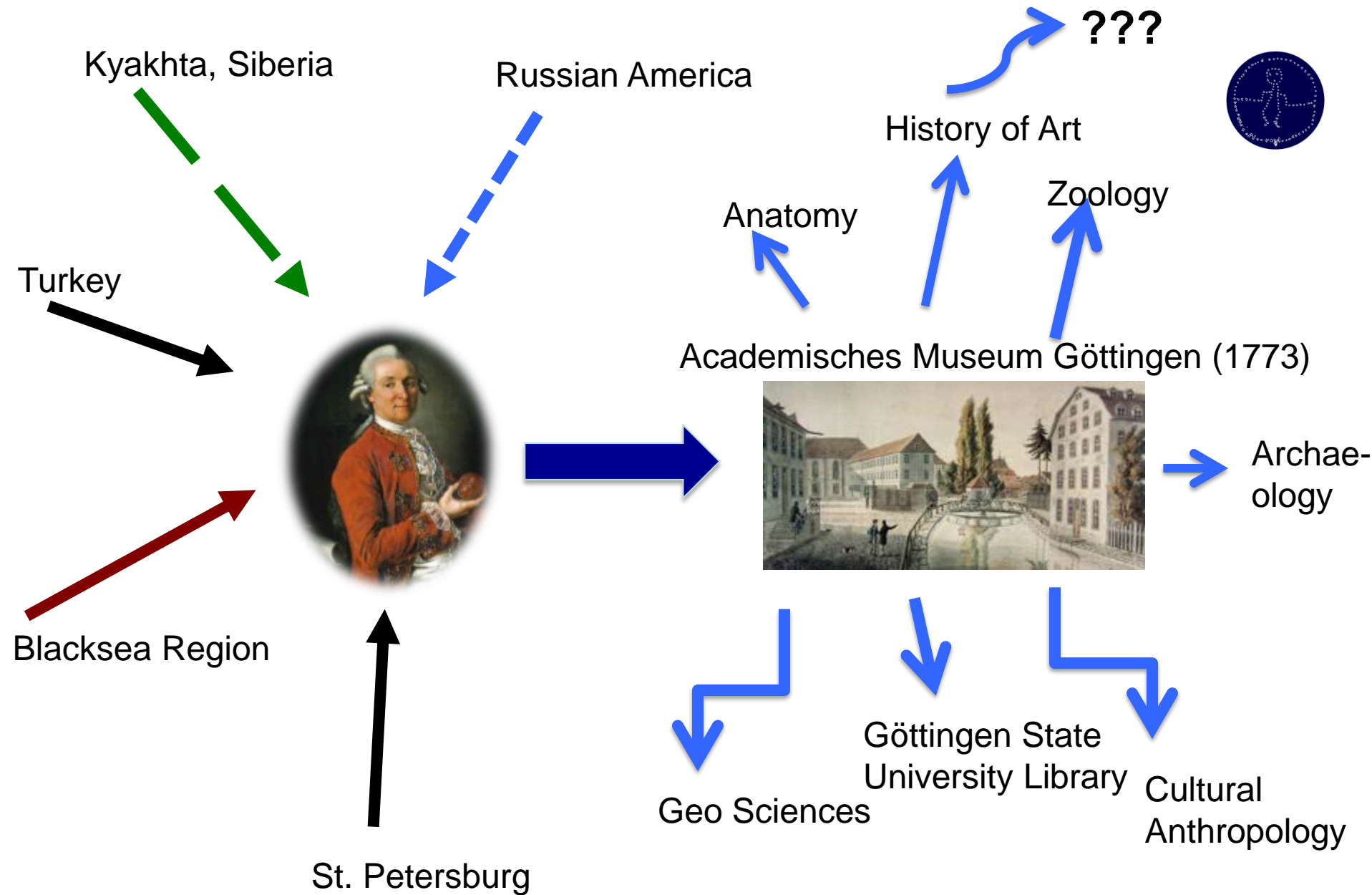
Georg Thomas v. Asch  
(1729-1807)

- **A**ppplied
- **S**tandards for **ASCH**
- **C**ultural
- **H**eritage

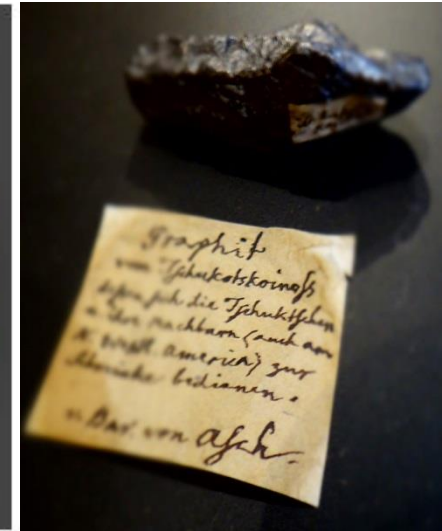
# The object's routes to Göttingen







# Provenance Description to reunite the collection virtually



# The University Collections holding items of the provenance Baron v. Asch



- the Historic Printed Collections, Manuscripts and Rare Books at the Göttingen State and University Library
- the Ethnographic Collection at the Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology
- the Skull Collection at the Department of Anatomy and Embryology, Centre for Anatomy, University Medical Centre Göttingen
- the Historical Collections at the Geoscience Centre
- the Coin Cabinet at the Department of Archaeology
- the Art Collection at the Department of Art History
- the Museum of Zoology

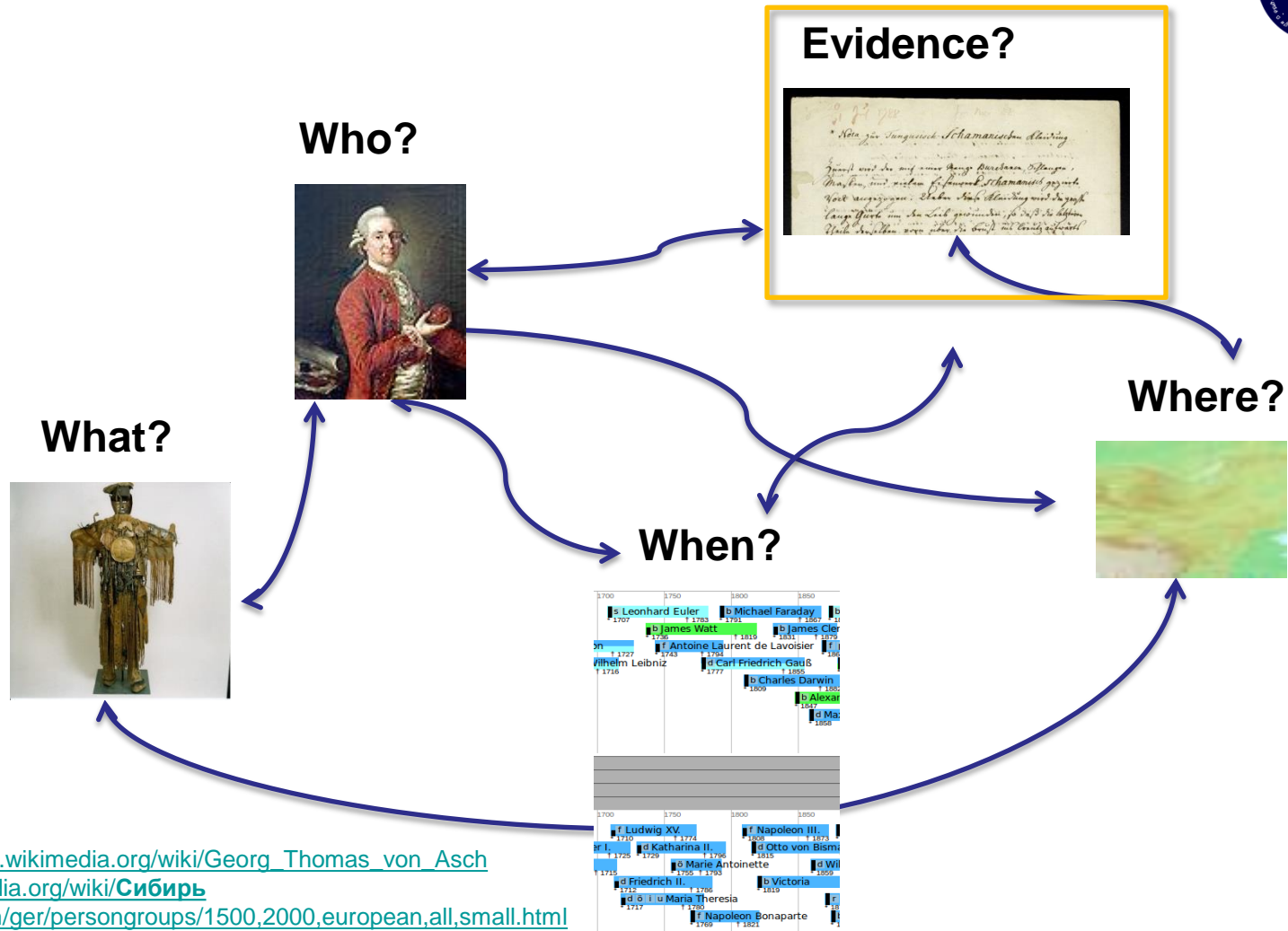




# Description of Provenance

- „... descriptions of the entities and activities involved in producing and delivering or otherwise influencing a given object.“  
Source: <https://www.w3.org/TR/prov-overview/>
- Description of the events in the lifecycle of an object
  - LIDO (Lightweight Information Describing Objects)
  - CIDOC-CRM (Conceptual Reference Model of the International Committee for Documentation of the International Council of Museums)
  - W3C PROV (a specification to express provenance records)
- Involved entities: what, who, when, where
- Evidences verifying statements

# Contextualization of Provenance Information



Source: [http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Georg\\_Thomas\\_von\\_Asch](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Georg_Thomas_von_Asch)  
<http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Сибирь>  
<http://www.vistorica.com/ger/persongroups/1500,2000,european,all,small.html>



# Evidences for the von Asch provenance

- Letters and listings from von Asch [Library and University Archive]
- Letters by others about the items von Asch sent to Göttingen [Library]
- Lists and inventories of the university [different Institutes Archives]
- Notes about single items [different Institutes; Library]
- Labels (written by von Asch himself or later by Blumenbach et al. in Göttingen) [different Institutes]



Asch wrote on the  
backsides of his  
official medical reports

=

Identification of labels  
written in St. Petersburg

Объяснительная медицинская  
Коллегия.

Головной толковой аттестации  
ящен при войскахъ въ толк  
и мѣстѣ, аттестация мѣстѣ

Репортъ!

Объяснительная

17. Dec. 78  
Verzeichniß bezugsfähiger Metallarten  
für das Königl. Gießwerk der Kaiserlichen Münze

Silbourn

1. Alexius comes a Bestastschef Riumin. — Imp. Russ. olim Cancellar.  
nunc Senior Exercit. Aux. Consil. actu Intim. et Secret. Ministr. 1834.  
— Immobiles in Mobili. — Semper Idem. 1762.

2. Ilusnodarmend Nochtgamu. — Kertu, Enukyal. Kundsor.  
— Mush eb Tyrkamnu. — Idem 10. d. 1774. Toda.

3. Zimö Andib. Tatariff. Müngzu.

in Louisa.

Griffin M. La. Trinityville, Grise  
— an! Constantin et Helena!

Вспл. 3. Екатерина. — Издатель: Б.

— Тако создаютъ. — За отличность. 17 —

6. Сія и вась просвіщаєть. Основано Іюня 28. дня 1774 Го<sup>да</sup>  
— достоинному. — По экзамені 1775 Го<sup>да</sup> Іюня 28. дня.

7. J. W. a Schlatter. Praes. et Consiliar. Intimus. — J. L. Wacker F.  
Pro prosperitate vires meas consero — nat. An. 1708. 2. 19. Febr.  
obit. a. 1768. 2. 23. Jan.

8. *Победителъ. Побѣдами. К. С. К.*  
— *Миръ съ Турками — Июля 10. дня 1774. Г.*

9. Денги вѣзати въ Лавру, и въ бѣлгородскіе Гостіи  
— съ Аще Того — въ бѣлгородскій Бортъ Мінска.

Karlsruhe, im März 1844

N<sup>o</sup> 1. *Memorandum Catalogue des piéces d'Anatomie, Instruments, Machines &c. qui composent l'arsenal de Chirurgie formé à Paris pour la Chancellerie de Médecine de S<sup>t</sup> Pétersbourg. à Paris. 1769.*

2. Fedorowicz, Introduction à la Théorie de la Fortification en table Analytique. 2. part.

3. Büchse mit 1000 Schuss auf den Lor. & Angelbaum. D. Fehlt. 1763.

4. — Trauerzeit auf den Tod des fr. Kaiserin Constanze. D. Schwab. 1768

3. Göbbels Manuskript von der Disputa bey der Offenburg-Kirche in Offenburg. 1765.

6. Описание Дороги от Санкт-Петербурга до Москвы. 1762.

7. Modell Fühnung des Salanten in der Fabrikar. 4. Febr. 1774.

87. Patavina  
den 22. August 1778.  
2. September

Baron v. Hsch.



lists written by Asch

sent together with  
his letters  
or  
his parcels

kept in the library  
AND  
the university archive



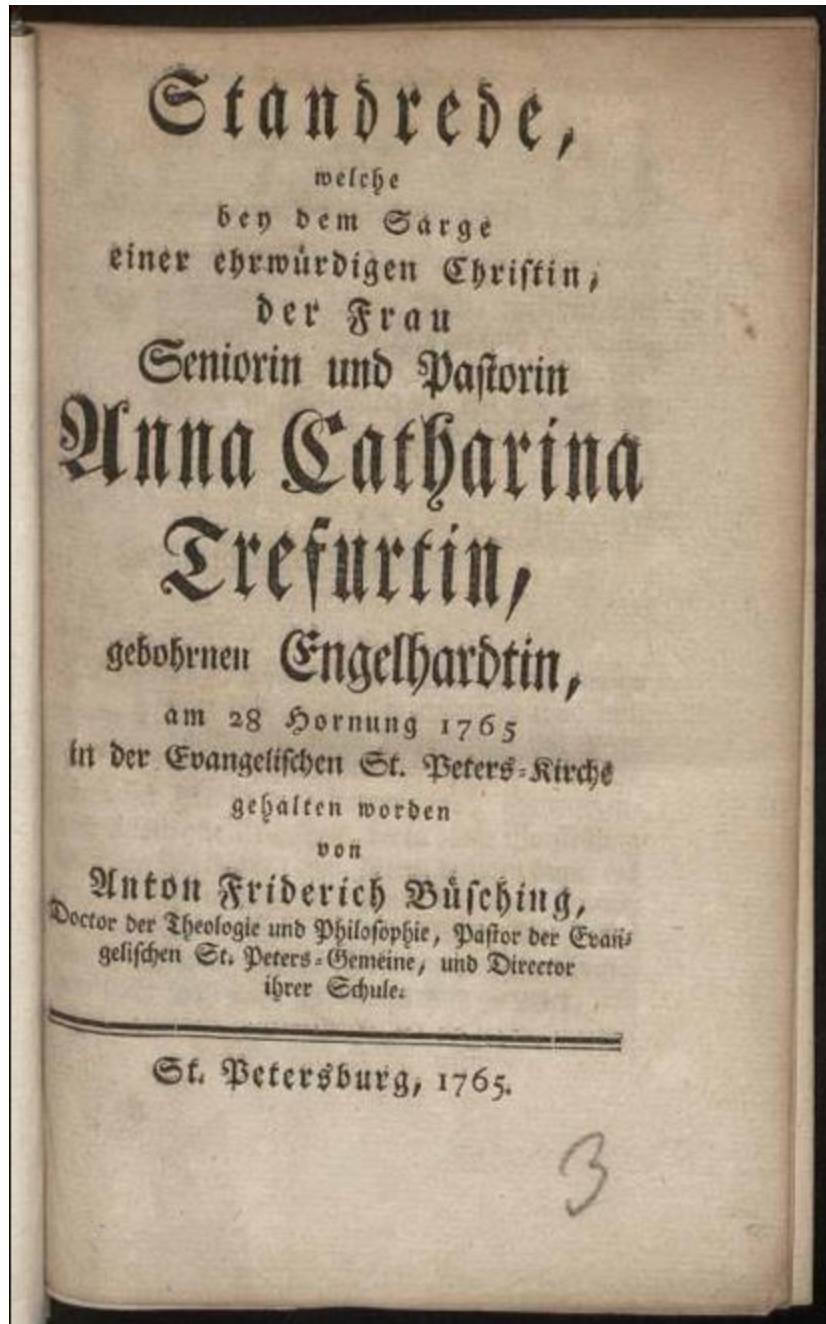
Verzeichniß einiger gedruckten Bücher in 8<sup>vo</sup>

- Nº 1. Morand. Catalogue des piéces d'Anatomie, Instruments, Machines &c. qui composent l'arsenal de Chirurgie formé à Paris pour la Chancellerie de Médecine de St. Peterbourg. à Paris. 1759.
2. Fedorowicz. Introduction à la Théorie de la Fortification en table Analytique. St. Petersb.
3. Büschings Trauer Rede auf den Tod d. Engelmann. St. Petersburg. 1763.
4. — Trauer Rede auf den Tod der Fr. Pastorin Trefurtin. St. Petersburg. 1765.
5. Гробное погребение по древнему обычаю в Санкт Петербурге в 1765.
6. Описание Дороги от Санкт Петербурга до Москвы. 1762.
7. Modelle Einführung des Salniters in der Fabrikation. St. Petersburg. 1774.

St. Petersburg  
den 22. August 1778.  
2. September

Laron v. Asch.

\_\_\_\_ [Büschings] TrauerRede auf den Tod der Fr. Pastorin Trefurtin. St. Ptetersb. 1765

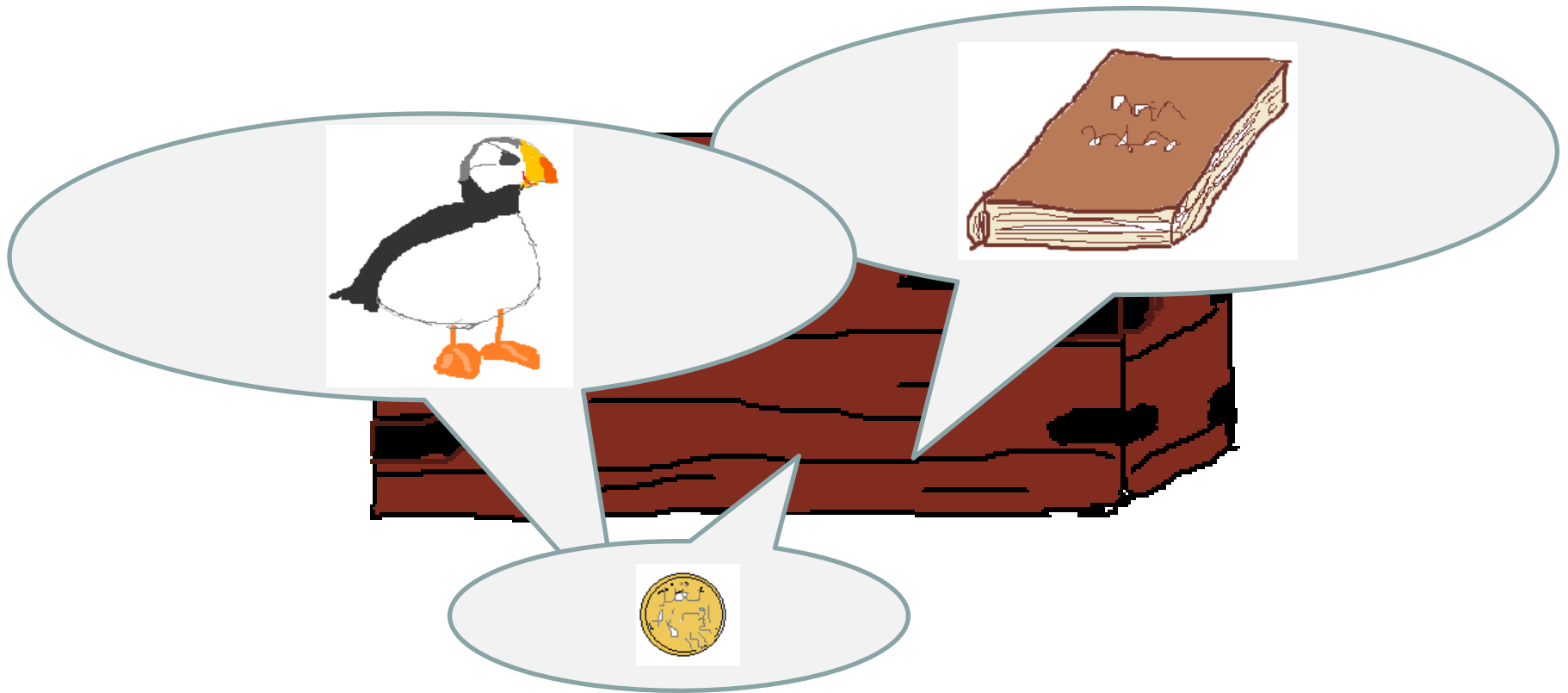


Title page of the book, now part of the stock of the Göttingen State and University Library.

Digital Copy:

<https://www.deutsche-digitale-bibliothek.de/item/6IOEUJNCLFUMCADYCPFRXIL7V4AS66X6>

# Where we want to go





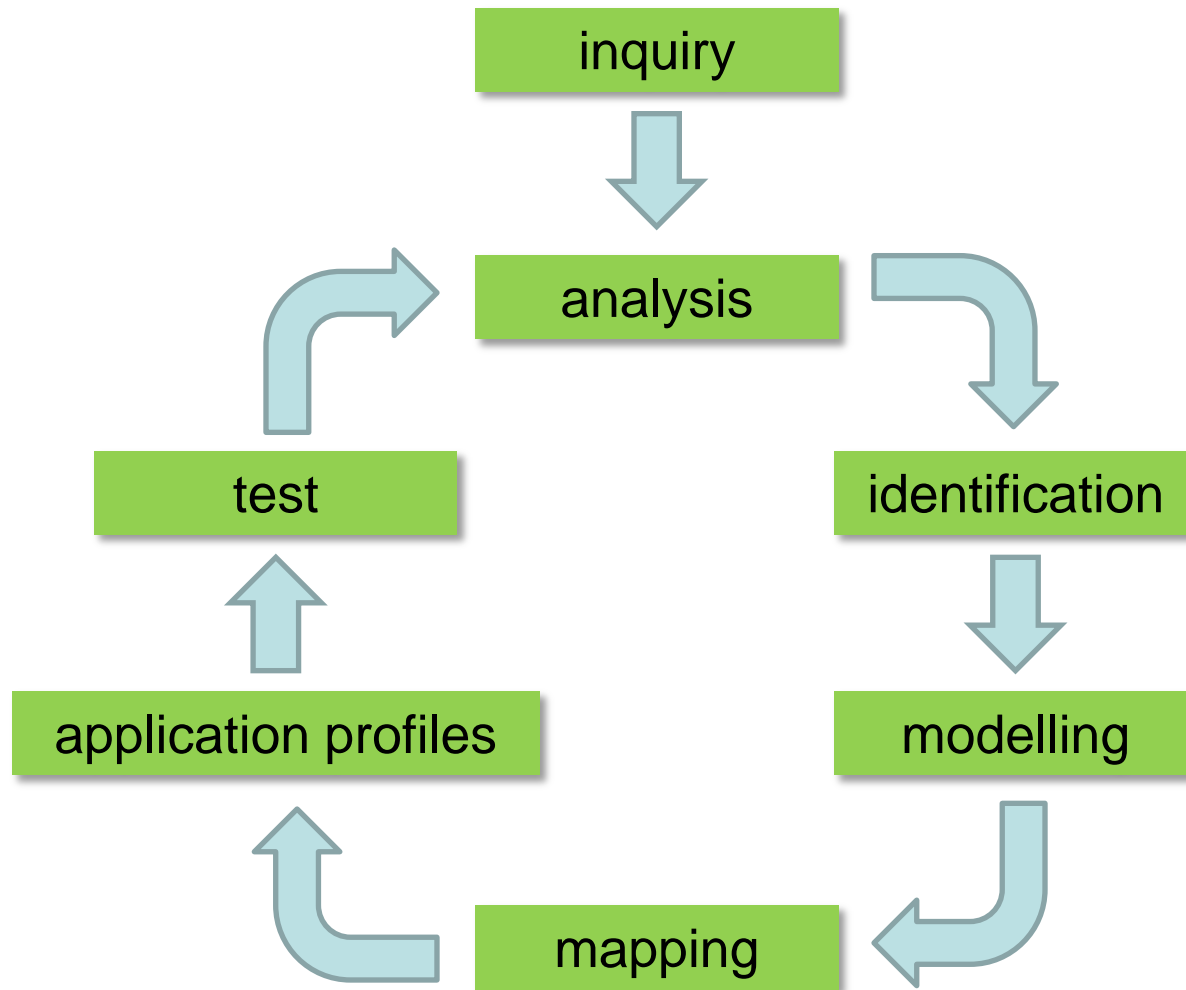
# Cultural and Scientific Heritage in the WWW

- The vision
  - A one-stop shop for access to millions of digital cultural and scientific objects
  - Interlinking the results of different projects, institutions and disciplines
- The need
  - well-structured consistent description of objects using metadata standards
- The reality
  - Metadata descriptions are aligned to the requirements of specific projects, in-house rules, legacy data, community agreements, ...
  - Metadata standards used by cultural and scientific institutions sometimes differ widely in their model and structures

## And most time it does make sense!



# 7 Steps to the Metadata Model

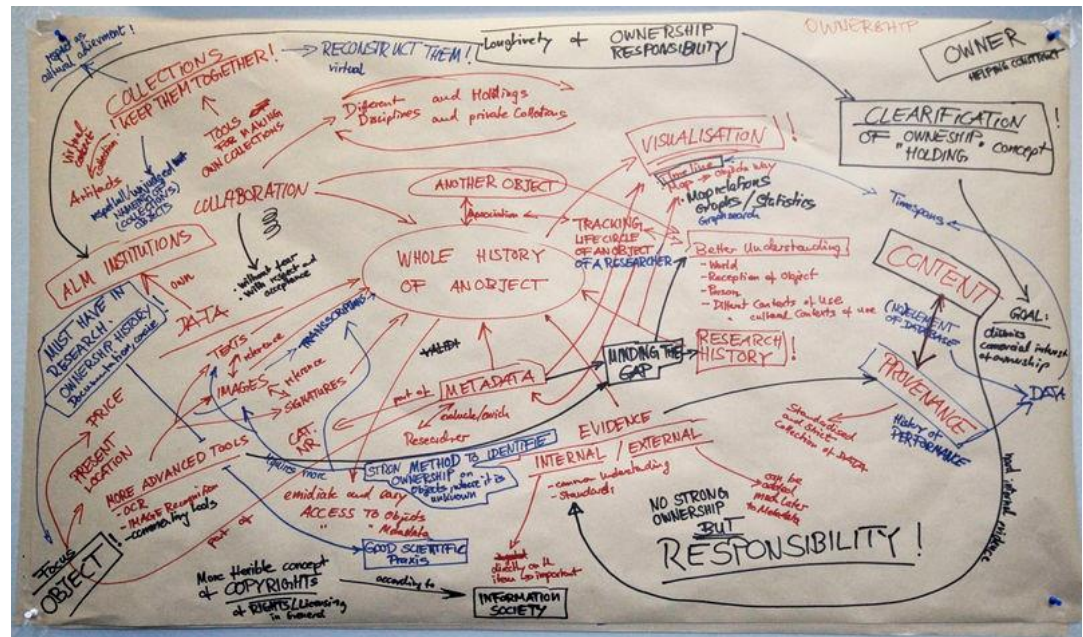
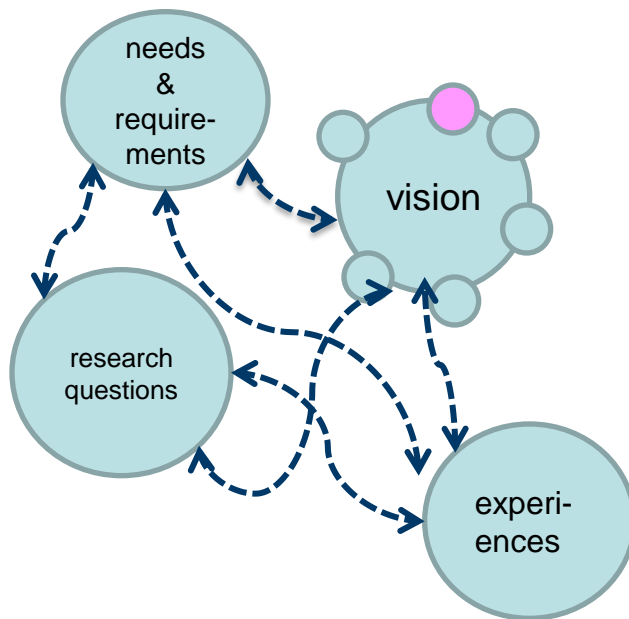




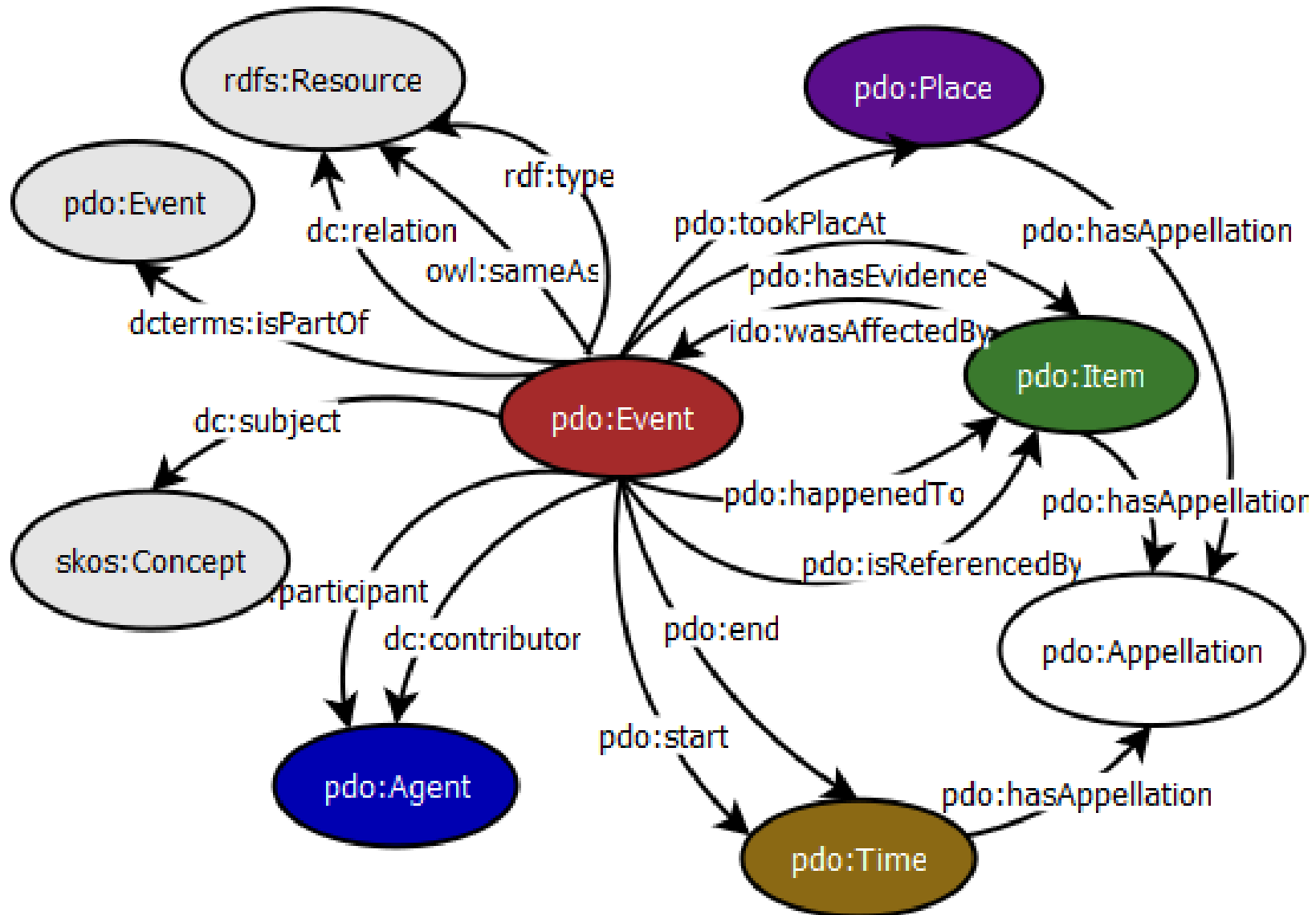
# Step One: Empirical survey, analysis and evaluation of gathered information



- one-on-one interviews and group discussions with:
  - representatives of different kinds of cultural heritage institutions
  - representatives of different scholarly disciplines

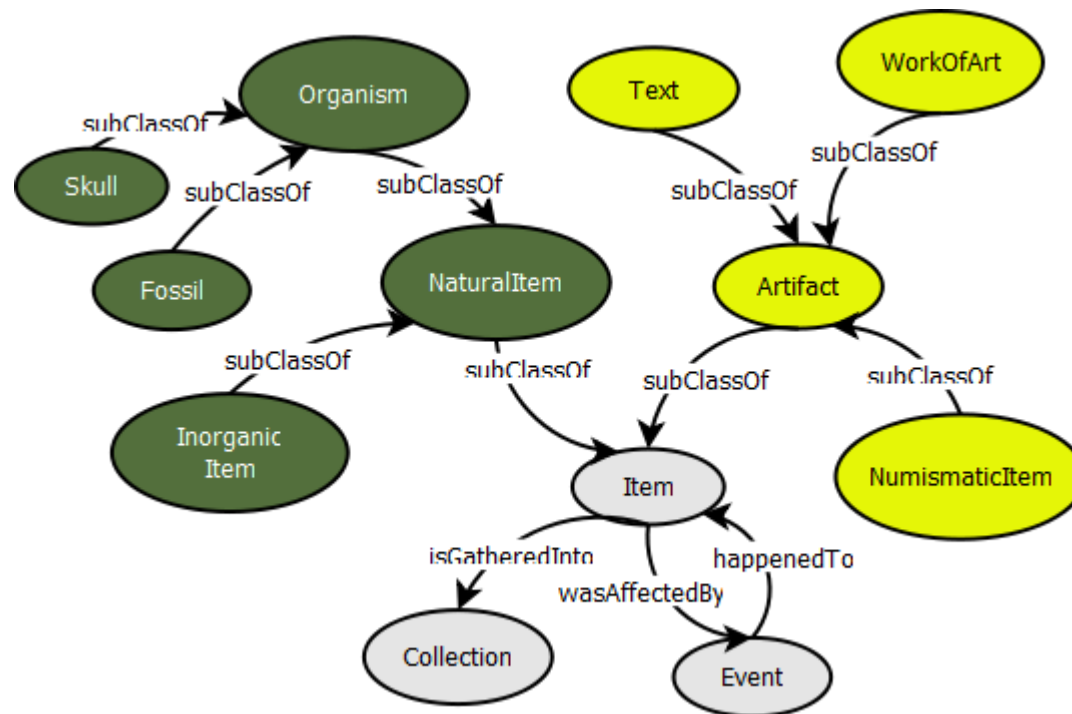


# Provenance Description Ontology

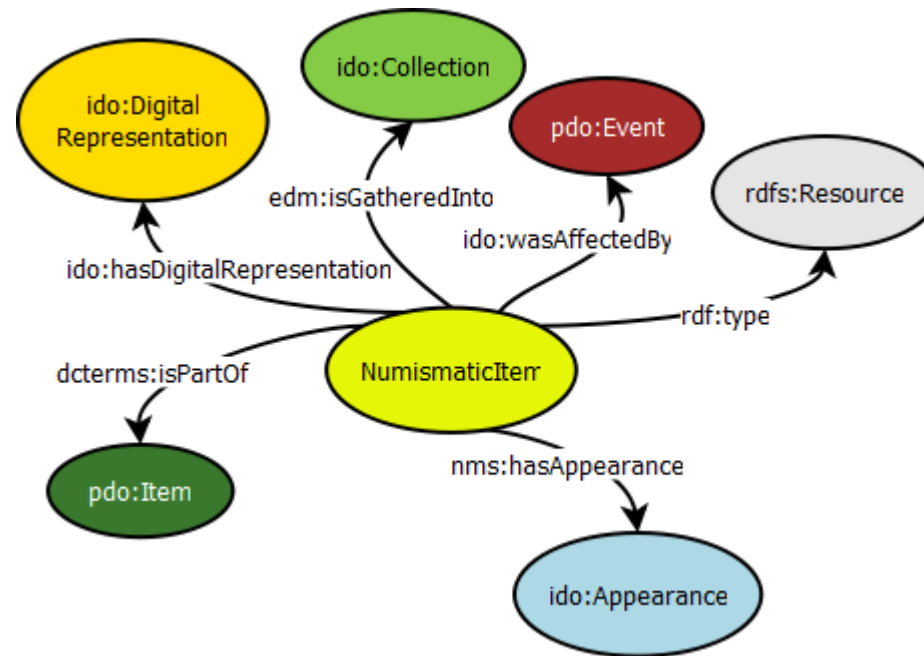




# Subclasses of ITEM allow different description standards

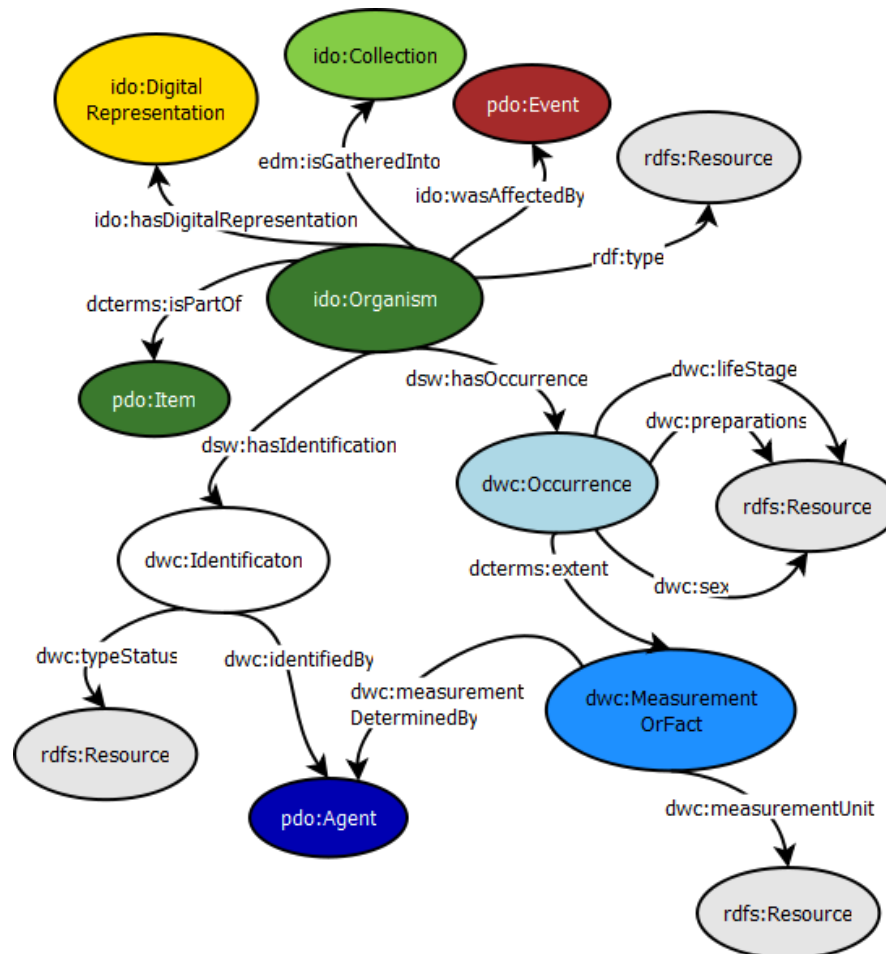


# Event, Collection, Digital Representation – one for all





# Different needs for item description







# First Conclusion

- Domain or type specific metadata descriptions of the item
  - e.g. description of a book using Dublin Core, bibo, RDA Vocabulary, of a coin using nomisma.org, of a bird using Darwin Core
- Cross-domain metadata description of the provenance of an item
  - provenance = all descriptions of activities/events in the lifecycle of an item (e.g. creation, finding, losing, destruction) – object biography
  - description of provenance using e.g. PROV-O, CIDOC-CRM, DCMI Metadata Terms and pdo [Provenance Description Ontology]
- Statements about provenance statements to prove the reliability of provenance information
  - e.g. by evidences like letters, diaries, label, inventories, etc.
  - using PROV-O and Dublin Core

# Examples from the Ethnographic Collection



Shaman's costume,  
Tungus (Evenks),  
Siberia

Inv. Nr. As 957

## Complexity of the object: As 957



## As 957 a – m

- coat
- apron
- cap
- mask
- mirrors
- helping spirits anthropomorphic (with clothes made from fabric)
- helping spirits zoomorphic made from metal
- boots
- pouch with pipe (added one year later)
- different materials as copper, iron, brass, fabric, leather

Missing: the drum and drum stick

20  
31 Jul 1788.

Jon Nov 88.

\* Nota zur Tungusisch-Schamanischen Kleidung

Zunächst wird der mit einem Mangel Burebanen, Distanzen,  
Mastbau, und vielen fischenwort Schamanisch gezeichnet  
Hoch ausgezogen. Darunter diese Kleidung wird die große  
lange Gürtel um den Leib gewunden, so daß der letzte  
Hahn der selben noch über die Brust und Brust aufwärts

inscriptio wird auf der rechten Seite am Ende befestigt.  
Der Schaman glaubt noch, daß sie sein Diplom sey.

Die rasche Stellung, konnte eingefest so ausgeführt  
werden, wie für den Schaman Tab. 68. (die Herstellung dieser  
Stationen) dargestellt ist.

Nur die Zeichen der Kleidung, fassen noch dazu.

Unter den Mangel von Burebanen, Distanzen, glücken, und  
so vielen fischenwort Anfangs, am Schamanischen Kleide,  
bemerkte man eine kleine Entzifferung, worin nichts, fließt  
aufbewahrt.

3. 1788.

Written evidences as von Asch's note and letters



# Who made this object?



A simple question with complicated answers.

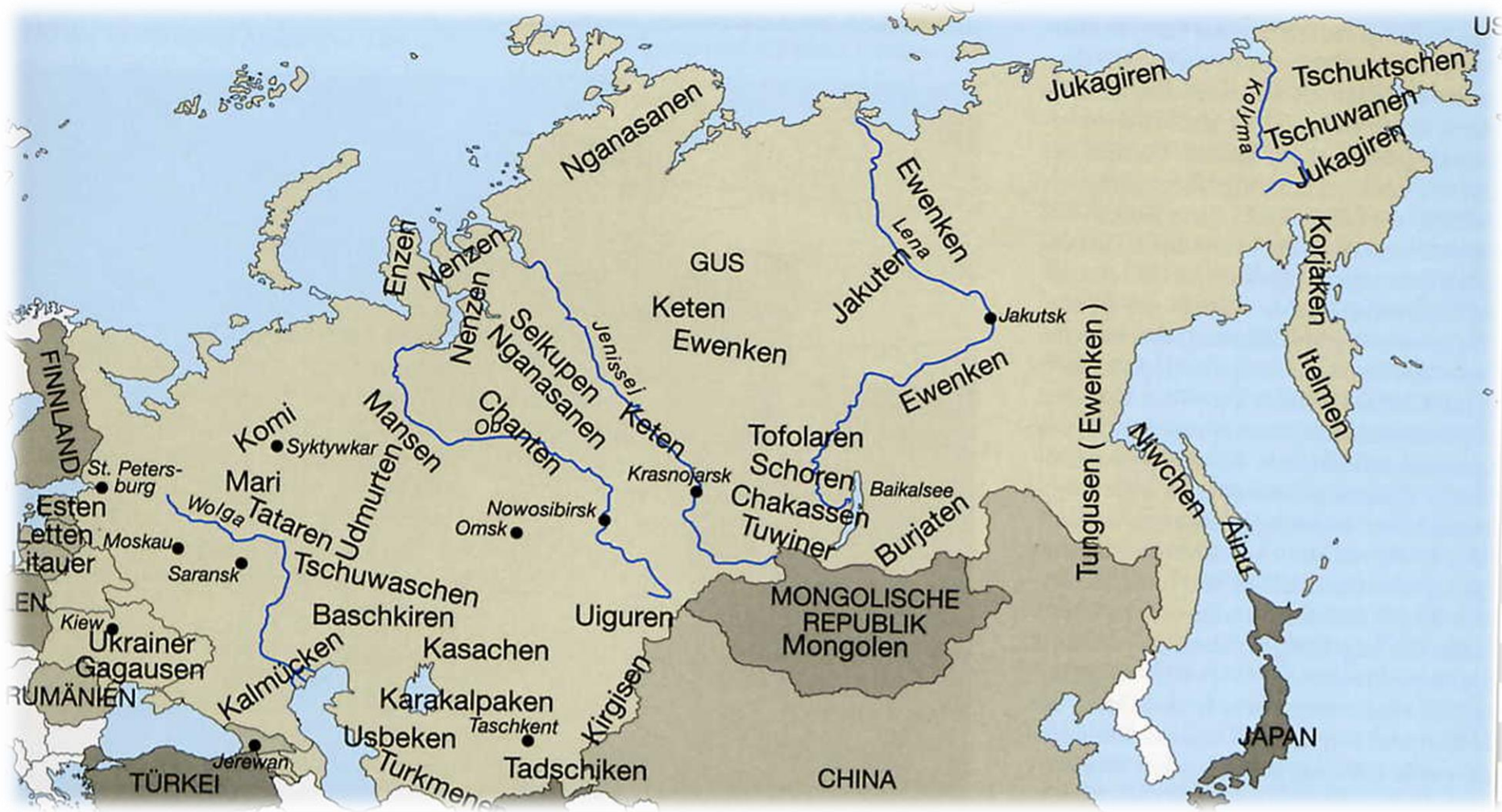
Provenance research beyond headline-catching events

Information from the documents:

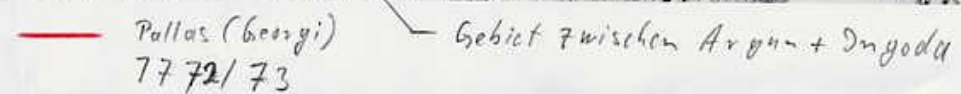
- Tungus origin
- Between the rivers Argun and Ingoda
- Time of acquisition by Asch (July 1788)
- Burning of Shamans after death (wrong, if Tungus origin confirmed)
- Information about similar pieces in Russia
- Recommendations for display







## Evenky - Tungus







## documentation aquisition time

the pipe arrived later and  
is probably not related to  
the shaman's costume



**Coat**

**Style  
Similarities  
What is typical for tungus  
origin?**





**Most characteristic:  
APRON**











plates  
„mirrors“

Indication for  
Buryat origin



**Mirrors according to  
literature more typical for  
Buryat shamans**

**who made the object???**

# Conclusions: objects are seen in their contexts



- Machine readable descriptions
  - Containing the desired info in a machine readable way
- The uncertainties
  - Shall be also machine readable



## 3 Description entities

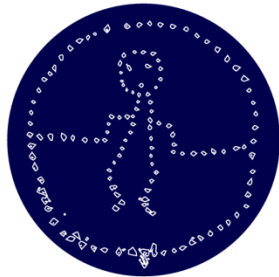
- Item – appearance
- Event – life cycle, provenance
- Statement – validation of reliability of item and event info



SUB

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**Thank you for your attention!**



<http://asch.wiki.gwdg.de>

